

Attorney's Dock t No.: 021756-005300US

I hereby claim benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 (copy attached) which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

_____ (Application Number)	_____ (Filing Date)	_____ (Status - patented, pending, abandoned)
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of Sole/First Inventor (given name, family name) Srinivasulu PuriInventor's Signature *S. Srinivasulu* Date 12/03/2003Residence White Plains, NY Citizenship India
(City, State) (Country)Mailing Address 16 Lake Street, Apt. #4B, White Plains, NY 10603Full Name of Second Inventor (given name, family name) Ravindra AkellaInventor's Signature *R. Akella* Date 12/03/03Residence White Plains, NY Citizenship India
(City, State) (Country)Mailing Address 39 South Road, White Plains, NY 10603Full Name of Third Inventor (given name, family name) Savita DurgadaInventor's Signature *S. Savita* Date 12/03/03Residence Tarrytown, NY Citizenship India
(City, State) (Country)Mailing Address 163 Carrollwood Drive, Tarrytown, NY 10591

Full Name of **F** **urth** Inventor (given name, family name) Mark Fisher

Inventor's Signature Mark D. Fisher Date 12-2-03

Residence Belmont, CA Citizenship United States
(City, State) (Country)

Mailing Address 641 Old County Road, Belmont, CA 94002
Apt 3105 (circled) ^

Full Name of **Fifth** Inventor (given name, family name) Hany Saleeb

Inventor's Signature _____ Date _____

Residence New Rochelle, NY Citizenship United States
(City, State) (Country)

Mailing Address 66 Skyview Lane, New Rochelle, NY 10804

Full Name of **Sixth** Inventor (given name, family name) Manish Gupta

Inventor's Signature _____ Date _____

Residence Hartsdale, NY Citizenship India
(City, State) (Country)

Mailing Address 300 South Central Avenue, #A-30, Hartsdale, NY 10530

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Full Name of **Fourth** Inventor (given name, family name) Mark Fisher
Inventor's Signature _____ Date _____
Residence Belmont, CA Citizenship United States
(City, State) (Country)
Mailing Address 641 Old County Road, Belmont, CA 94002

Full Name of **Fifth** Inventor (given name, family name) Hany Saleeb
Inventor's Signature *Hany Saleeb* Date 12/3/2003
Residence New Rochelle, NY Citizenship United States
(City, State) (Country)
Mailing Address 66 Skyview Lane, New Rochelle, NY 10804

Full Name of **Sixth** Inventor (given name, family name) Manish Gupta
Inventor's Signature *Gupta* Date 12/03/2003
Residence Hartsdale, NY Citizenship India
(City, State) (Country)
Mailing Address 300 South Central Avenue, #A-30, Hartsdale, NY 10530

Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56
Duty to Disclose Information Material to Patentability

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

(1) Prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and

(2) The closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

(1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or

(2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:

- (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
- (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

(c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

(1) Each inventor named in the application;

(2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and

(3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.

(d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

SRINIVASULU PURI, et al.

Group Art Unit No.:

Not Yet Assigned

Application Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Examiner:

Not Yet Assigned

Filed on:

For: **METHOD OF AND SYSTEM FOR DETERMINING IF AN ELECTRONIC
SIGNATURE IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO COMMIT A TRANSACTION TO A
DATABASE**

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Oracle International Corporation, a California corporation having a place of business at 500 Oracle Parkway, Redwood Shores, California 94065, certifies that to the best of its knowledge and belief it is the assignee or is entitled to ownership of the entire right, title, and interest in and to the above-referenced patent application by virtue of an Assignment filed concurrently herewith and represents that the undersigned is a representative authorized and empowered to sign on behalf of Oracle International Corporation, which hereby appoints the attorney(s) and/or agent(s) identified by:

Customer Number 20350

Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111-3834

and

Sanjay Prasad, Reg. No. 36,247; Roger Kennedy, Reg. No. 44,823, and Gabriela Buttz, Reg. No. 50,246 of ORACLE INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. Send all future correspondence to the attention of William L. Shaffer, Reg. No. 37,234, care of the above address and direct all telephone calls to the same at 650-326-2400.

Dated: 12/4/2003

Assignee of Interest:

Oracle International Corporation

By: [Signature]

Name: Sanjay Prasad

Title: Vice President

Address of Assignee of Interest:

Oracle International Corporation
500 Oracle Parkway
Redwood Shores, CA 94065